AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) Controlled release (CR) granules for soil-application obtained by applying an active-ingredient-comprising polymer coating to a solid carrier in a fluidized bed with a defined heat input of from about 11,864 to 25,000 kJ/kg of coating polymer, wherein the CR granules comprise, as coating polymer, a dispersion selected from the group consisting of: butyl acrylate/styrene copolymers, copolymer dispersion of acrylic and methacrylic esters, polyethylene wax emulsions, polyesters composed of the following units: 50 mol% dimethyl terephthalate + approximately 50 mol% adipic acid + 150 mol% 1,4-butanediol and ethylene/methacrylic acid zinc salt.

2. (previously presented) The CR granules defined in claim 1, wherein the active-ingredient-comprising polymer coating of comprises components (a) to (c):

(a) 0.1-25% by weight of one or more active ingredients,

(b) 1-40% by weight of one or more coating polymers, and

(c) 0-60% by weight of one ore more additives,

and wherein the total of the % by weight of the components (a) to (c) amounts to 100% by weight.

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (previously presented) The CR granules of defined in claim 1, comprising, as solid carrier, water-soluble, water-insoluble or biodegradable granules.

9. (previously presented) A process for the preparation of controlled release (CR) granules which contain micropores and are adapted for soil-application, and which are obtained by applying an active-ingredient-comprising coating to a solid carrier in a fluidized bed with a defined heat input of from about 11,864 to 25,000 kJ/kg of coating polymer, wherein the CR granules comprise, as coating polymer, a dispersion selected from the group consisting of: butyl acrylate/styrene copolymers, copolymer dispersions of acrylic and methacrylic esters, polyethylene wax emulsions, polyesters composed of the following units: 50 mol% dimethyl terephthalate + approximately 50 mol% adipic acid + 150 mol% 1,4-butanediol and ethylene/methacrylic acid zinc salt,
which process comprises applying, to the carrier, in a fluidized bed:
first the at least one active ingredient, and
then the coating comprising at least one coating polymer and, optionally additives,
said micropores being generated in the coating by abrasion or by the use of water-soluble additives.

10. (currently amended) A method for controlling phytopathogenic fungi, undesired vegetation, undesired attack by insects and/or for regulating the growth of plants, which comprises applying the CR granules of claim 1 to the soil which contains or will contain seeds or ~~plans~~ plants therein.

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (previously presented) In a process for the preparation of CR granules for soil-application by applying an active-ingredient-comprising polymer coating to a solid carrier in a fluidized bed, the improvement of controlling the release rate of the granules by operating at a heat input to the polymer coating of from 6000 to 25,000 kJ/kg.

14. (previously presented) The process of claim 13 wherein the heat input is from about 8200 to about 16,322 kJ/kg.

15. (canceled)

16. (previously presented) The process of claim 9, wherein the lower heat input level is about 12,927 kJ/kg.

17. (canceled)

18. (previously presented) The process of claim 13, wherein the lower heat input level is about 11,864 kJ/kg.

19. (previously presented) The process of claim 13, wherein the lower heat input level is about 12,927 kJ/kg.

20. (previously presented) The CR granules defined in claim 1, which are obtained by applying the polymer coating to the solid carrier with a heat input of from about 12,927 to 25,000 kJ/kg of coating polymer.

21. (previously presented) The process of claim 14, wherein the lower heat input level is about 8282 kJ/kg.